Setting up of a diesel workshop in Karnataka

*696. SHRI K.R. JAYADEVAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Ministry of Railways for setting up of a diesel workshop in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, which place has been selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increasing revenue from Postal Services

*697. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a recent trend in the postal department, that the volume of mail is increasing but revenue is not increasing in that proportion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for this paradoxical trend; and

(d) what setps are being taken to increase the revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) Postage revenue of the Department of Post comprises revenue derived from different segments of postal service like letters, inland letter' cards, post cards, registration, speed post, etc. Postage revenue per unit of some segments of postal service is more than per unit revenue of some other segments. Therefore, it is difficult to correlate the postage revenue yield with the increase in the mail volume, as sometimes, increase in the volume of a particular segment of postal service which is low revenue-yielding does not get reflected in the same proportion leading to depressed increase in the postage revenue. In 1991-92, domestic mail volume fell by 3.29% while revenue rose by 12.61%. In 1992-93 the domestic mail volume increased by 2.98% while the revenue increased by 13.90%. In 1993-94, the domestic mail volume increased by 7.90% while the revenue rose by 4.50%. While it is the endeavour of the Government to align postal rates as closely as possible to the unit cost of postal articles, rates of many postal services are kept low keeping in view the public interest. High revenue yielding activities of the Department of Post like Speed Post are vigorously promoted to effect internal cost subsidisation.

Unity among Third World Countries against extension of NPT

*698. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to bring about unity amongst the Third World countries, against the US-led nuclear powers, seeking unconditional extension of Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty at the global conference held at UN in the third week of April, 1995, and with what success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): India is not a state party to the NPT. Its principled position on the NPT is well known. At the Ministerial level Coordinating Bureau meeting in Bandung from 25-27 April, NAM member states considered the issue of evolving a common position on the NPT. India participated in the Bandung meeting and though not a party, reiterated its consistent and principled position. Due to differences among NAM members a consensus could not emerge. A number of NAM members, party to the NPT, favoured the indefinite extention of the NPT. We shared our perception with other NAM members, but as to whether they have the same perception or not is for every sovereign and independent state to decide for itself.